

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

DANCE

I. SCOPE

This overview focuses on dance materials found throughout the Library's general book collection as well as in the various special collections and special format divisions, including General Collections; the Music Division; Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound; the American Folklife Center; Manuscript Division; Prints & Photographs; and Rare Book and Special Collections. The overview also identifies dance-related Internet sources created by the Library as well as subscription databases.

II. SIZE

Dance materials can be found in the following classes: BJ; GT; VN; GV; M; and ML. All classes, when totaled, add up to 57,430 dance and dance-related items. Class GV1580-1799.4 (Dancing) contains 10,114 items, constituting the largest class. The Music Division holds thirty special collections of dance materials and an additional two hundred special collections in music and theater that include dance research materials.

III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS

General research strengths in the area of dance research at the Library of Congress fall within three areas: (A) dance instructional and etiquette manuals, especially those printed between 1520 and 1920, (B) dance on camera, and (C) folk, traditional, and ethnic dance.

A. The first primary research strength of the Library of Congress is its collections of 16th-20th-century dance instructional and etiquette manuals and ancillary research materials, which are located in the General Collections, Music Division, and Rare Book and Special Collections (sub-classifications GN, GT, GV, BJ, and M). Special Collections within the Music Division that compliment this research are numerous, including its massive collection of sheet music from the early 1800s through the 20th century. Related Special Collections within the Music Division include Dance Band Music Collection, Civil War Music Collection, Johann Strauss Collection, John Philip Sousa Collection, Big Band Collection, Teo Marcero Collection, and the Luther Henderson Collection. The German National Music Collection contains folk and social dance music from the Weimar and Third Reich periods. The Library's American Memory website "An American Ballroom Companion, Dance Instructional Manuals, ca.1490-1920" is a major resource, used worldwide by students and scholars.

B. A second area of general research strength is the study of dance on camera and significant materials are located in the division of Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound (MBRS), beginning with the early Edison films that date from 1897. Though its vast collection of television programs, dance is represented in televised programming such as Great Performances, Thirteen/WNET, Dance in America, Bell Telephone Hour, Camera Three, Omnibus, and Live from Lincoln Center, just to name a few. In addition, dancers often appeared on variety shows, such as the Ed Sullivan Show, Danny Kaye Show, Ray Hutton Show, and the Andy Williams Show. MBRS also holds moving image dance materials from a number of other countries, such as Canada, England, France, and Spain. Feature films with dance as well as filmed musicals are well represented. Genres represented include Western social and theatrical dance, dance in popular culture, and ethnic dance.

C. A third area of note is the collection of resources found in the American Folklife Center, which offers excellent opportunities for the study of folk, traditional, and ethnic dance, including archival and moving image materials on dance in various cultures. In addition, the Alan Lomax Collection consists of materials from the 1930s and 1940s, which was gathered for the Library's Archive of American folk Song and contains pioneering documentation of traditional music, dance, and other forms of grassroots creativity in the United States. To compliment these offerings, the Music Division holds the Franziska Boas Collection, which contains archival materials of this ethnologist and pioneer in dance therapy. The Manuscript Division's Margaret Mead Papers and South Pacific Ethnographic Archives are considered important research tools for the study of dance in Pacific cultures. Complementing these collections, MBRS holds significant moving image materials for the study of folk, traditional, and ethnic dance.

IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION

The Music Division holds thirty Special Collections in dance, providing unusually strong dance research materials in three areas: (A) development of American modern dance, (B) the Ballets Russes de Serge Diaghilev, and (C) dance in popular culture, including Broadway, film, pageants, and Vaudeville.

A. Many of the Library's special collections in dance, located in the Music Division, focus on the pioneers of American modern dance and currently include: Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation Collection, Erick Hawkins Collection, Helen McGehee and Umaña Collection of Dance Materials, Katherine Dunham Collection, Lester Horton Dance Theater Collection, Martha Graham Collection and Martha Graham Legacy Archive, May O'Donnell Archive, Miriam Cole Collection, Pola Nirenska Collection, Robert Ellis Dunn Collection, and Ruth St. Denis Archive.

Other Special Collections found within the Music Division and used in this research include holograph scores, manuscripts, scrapbooks, photographs, and correspondence from composers and arrangers who worked with or communicated with many early practitioners of modern dance, including the collections of Aaron Copland, Charles Mingus, David Diamond, Ned Rorem, Virgil Thompson, Vivian Fine, John Herbert McDowell, and William Schuman. The Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Collection and Music Division Old Correspondence files contain materials on the Library's five dance commissions for works by Martha Graham and the Nathan Kroll Collection holds manuscript and moving image materials related to the filming of Graham works. The Music Division also has the papers of dance and music critic Alan M. Kriegsman and dance writer Sali Ann Kriegsman as well as music critic Irving Lowens, which also illuminate these important dance creators.

MBRS has an outstanding collection of films of American modern dance icons and Prints and Photographs holds a significant number of modern dance images. The Manuscript Division holds the papers of Martha Graham's agent, Lucy Kroll, and the papers of her psychiatrist, Frances Wickes. Many of the pioneers of American modern dance were associated with the Works Progress Administration and the Music Division holds both the Federal Theater Project collection and the WPA Federal Music Project; the Manuscript Division holds the Federal Writers' Project Collection.

B. The Music Division's holdings on the Ballets Russes de Serge Diaghilev are of considerable importance and include the collections of Adolph Bolm, Alexandra Danilova, Bronislava Nijinska as well as the George Zoritch Archive of Photographs, the Serge Grigoriev/Ballets Russes Collection, and the Diaghilev/Serge Lifar Collection. The Elizabeth Sprague Coolidge Collection and Music Division Old Correspondence files contain a wealth of information on Coolidge's commission for dancer/choreographer Adolph Bolm, which resulted in Igor Stravinsky's work, *Apollon Musagète* (later retitled *Apollo*, choreographed by George Balanchine for the Ballets Russes de Serge Diaghilev and now a staple in the repertory of the New York City Ballet).

C. The Music Division holds four large special collections that document American popular entertainment, beginning with the early roots of Vaudeville through contemporary Broadway: the Bob Hope Collection, Danny Kaye/Sylvia Fine Collection, Marge Champion Collection, and the Fosse/Verdon Collection. To complement the larger collections, the Library holds the Harriet Hctor Collection and a collection of Vaudeville Scrapbooks. Composers and arrangers of dance music for Broadway, musical theater, film, vaudeville, pageants, and other popular entertainment include the collections of Burton Lane, Edward and Marian MacDowell, Erick Wolfgang Korngold, Frederick Lowe, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Leonard Bernstein, Richard Rodgers, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Vernon Duke, and Vincent Youmans. The Music Division also holds the papers of producers Roger Stevens and Robert Whitehead,

the musical theater licensing company Tams-Whitmark, and lighting designer Peggy Clark. Other special collections important to the study of popular dance include the Film Music Collection, American Musical Theatre Collection, and Show Music on Record (a searchable database). MBRS contains major holdings of filmed musicals and specialty television programs and numerous visual images in Prints and Photographs complement this area of research.

V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

There are three principal areas of electronic resources at the Library: the Music Division's Performing Arts Encyclopedia, American Memory digital collections, and subscription databases.

The Performing Arts Encyclopedia (PAE) is a guide to performing arts resources at the Library of Congress, providing information about the Library's unsurpassed collections of scores, sheet music, audio recordings, films, photographs, and other materials. Special online presentations are available for both Martha Graham and Katherine Dunham. Other Music Division online presentations useful in the study of dance include African-American Band Music; Civil War Sheet Music; Historic Sheet Music, 1800-1922; The March King: John Philip Sousa; and Ragtime.

The Library's American Memory digital collections provide resources that enhance the study of social and theatrical dance, popular entertainment, folk dance, ethnic dance, and Native American dance. As noted above, the Library's American Memory website "An American Ballroom Companion, Dance Instructional Manuals, ca.1490-1920" is a major resource for the study of social dance, used worldwide by students and scholars. Other American Memory sites for the study of social and theatrical dance include African Americans – Sheet Music, 1850-1920; American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Program, 1936-1940; Leonard Bernstein (see Bernstein, Leonard); Broad­sides and printed Ephemera ca.1600-2000; Chicago Daily News – Photographs; 1902-1933, Civil War Era – Band Music; Aaron Copland (see Copland, Aaron); Edison Companies Film and Sound Recordings; Federal Theatre Project, 1935-1939; Historic American Sheet Music, 1850-1920; Music for the Nation: American Sheet Music; Nineteenth-Century Books, 1850-1877; Portraits of Creative Americans – Carl Van Vechten, 1932-1964; Posters, WPA, 1936-1943; Turn of the Century America, 1880-1920; and Variety Stage, 1870-1920

Folk and traditional dance studies are enhanced by American Memory sites, including: America from the Great Depression to World War II, Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945; Buckaroos in Paradise: Ranching Culture in Northern Nevada, 1945-1982; California Gold: Northern California Folk Music from the Thirties; Captain Pearl R. Nye: Life on the Ohio and Erie Canal; The Chinese in California, 1850-1925; Fiddle Tunes of the Old Frontier: The Henry Reed Collection (Southern Appalachian, 1966-1967); Florida Folklife from the WPA Collection, 1937-1942; Hispanic Music and Culture from the Northern Rio Grande: The Juan B. Rael Collection; Pioneering the Upper Midwest,

Books from Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, ca.1820-1910; Prairie Settlement, Nebraska, Photographs and Family Letters, 1862-1912; Southern Mosaic: John and Ruby Lomax 1939 southern States Recording Trip; Tending the Commons: Folklife and Landscape in Southern West Virginia, 1992-1999; Voices from the Days of Slavery: Former Slaves Tell Their Stories (1932-1975); and Voices from the Dust Bowl: The Charles L. Todd & Robert Sonkin Migrant Worker Collection

Native American dance is included in three American Memory websites: Curtis, Edward. North American Indian Photographs, ca.1900; Native American Culture, Pacific Northwest; and Omaha Indian Music.

In addition, the Library provides access to subscription databases that are important assets for dance research, including: Dramatis Personae Archive; E-Journals in Music, Dance, Drama, and Film; JSTOR Arts & Sciences I, II, III, IV; Internet Resources for Music, Theater and Dance; International Index to the Performing Arts; Performing Arts in America, 1875-1923; Project Muse; Oxford Music Online and Oxford Reference; and SIBMAS International Directory of Performing Arts Collections and Institutions.

VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS

The Library has few materials that document the development of ballet in America. Likewise, with the exception of printed books of dance obtained through copyright, the Library has negligible sources for the study of European modern dance and ballet. Although its holdings for studies of American social dance are strong, it has few foreign-language dance and etiquette manuals from 1800-1920. The Library's general dance holdings also are weak in iconography (prints, original designs, posters, and photographs) and dance periodicals.